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1 which, for at least some users of the system, a client user interface email  
2 environment is generated through use of HTML or web pages; and  
3 redirecting said at least one email message if application of said at least one  
4 heuristic indicates that said at least one email message likely constitutes  
5 unsolicited commercial email.

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6  
7 2. The email filtering method of claim 1, wherein said redirecting  
8 comprises placing a copy of the email message at a single location from which it  
9 can be accessed by more than one intended recipient of the email message.  
10

11 3. The email filtering method of claim 1, wherein said defining  
12 comprises defining a plurality of heuristics that are independent of the message  
13 conveyed by any of the content contained in an email message.  
14

15 4. The email filtering method of claim 1, wherein said at least one  
16 heuristic has at least one parameter that can be adjusted, and further comprising  
17 adjusting said at least one parameter to vary the pattern that is considered.  
18

19 5. The email filtering method of claim 1, wherein said at least one  
20 heuristic considers a pattern associated with the number of specified recipient  
21 addresses of the email message.  
22

23 6. The email filtering method of claim 5, wherein the pattern is  
24 associated with the number of invalid specified recipient addresses.  
25

1           7.     The email filtering method of claim 1, wherein said at least one  
2 heuristic considers a pattern associated with the size of an email message.

3  
4           8.     The email filtering method of claim 1, wherein said at least one  
5 heuristic considers patterns associated with the number of specified recipient  
6 addresses of the email message and the size of the email message.

7  
8           9.     The email filtering method of claim 1 further comprising after said  
9 redirecting, notifying at least one intended recipient that an email message  
10 intended for them has been redirected.

11  
12          10.    The email filtering method of claim 1, wherein said redirecting  
13 comprising redirecting said at least one email message to a location that can be  
14 shared by a plurality of intended recipients for reading said email message, and  
15 further comprising after said redirecting, notifying intended recipients of the email  
16 message that an email message intended for them has been redirected to said  
17 location.

18  
19          11.    The email filtering method of claim 10, wherein said redirecting  
20 comprises storing only one copy of the email message.

21  
22          12.    (Amended) An email filtering method comprising:  
23 receiving an email message at an email server that maintains inboxes for  
24 individual recipients, wherein the email message is addressed to a plurality of  
25 recipients, the email server comprising part of an Internet-based email system in

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1 which, for at least some users of the system, a client user interface email  
2 environment is generated through use of HTML or web pages;

3 calculating a score for the email message at the server location based upon  
4 at least one of (a) the size of the email message, and (b) the number of specified  
5 recipient addresses;

6 comparing the score with a threshold value that defines a likelihood of  
7 whether an email message constitutes an unwanted email message;

8 responsive to the email message exceeding the threshold value, placing a  
9 copy of the email message at a first location other than any of the intended  
10 recipients' inboxes; and

11 sending a notification to the intended recipients that a copy of an email  
12 message that was intended for them has been placed at the first location.

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13  
14 13. The email filtering method of claim 12, wherein the threshold value  
15 is determined independent of the message conveyed by any of the text that is  
16 contained in any part of the email message.

17  
18 14. The email filtering method of claim 12, wherein the score is based  
19 upon both the size of the email message and the number of specified recipient  
20 addresses.

21  
22 15. The email filtering method of claim 12, wherein said first location is  
23 a storage location that is managed by the email server.  
24  
25

1           16.    The email filtering method of claim 12, wherein said threshold value  
2 is based upon the number of invalid specified recipient addresses.

3  
4           17.    The email filtering method of claim 12, wherein said sending of the  
5 notification comprises placing a pointer in an email folder of each recipient of the  
6 email message.

7  
8           18.    The email filtering method of claim 12 further comprising  
9 responsive to a request from a recipient, making a recipient copy of the email  
10 message and placing the recipient copy at a dedicated recipient storage location.

11  
12           19.    (Amended) A computer program stored on one or more computer  
13 readable media for processing email, the program comprising the following steps:

14           receiving an email message at a server location, the email message being  
15 addressed to a plurality of recipients, the server location comprising one or more  
16 servers that comprise part of an Internet-based email system in which, for at least  
17 some users of the system, a client user interface email environment is generated by  
18 the system through use of HTML or web pages that are sent via the Internet to  
19 client devices and used by a browser executing on a client device to render the  
20 user interface email environment;

21           placing only one copy of the email message at a first storage location that is  
22 not a dedicated storage location for just one of the intended recipients; and

23           notifying each of the intended recipients that an email message intended for  
24 them has been placed at the first location.

1           20.    The steps of claim 19, wherein the first storage location is a storage  
2 location that is managed by a server associated with the server location.

3  
4           21.    The steps of claim 19, wherein the first storage location is a storage  
5 location that is managed by a server associated with the server location, and is  
6 accessible to any of the intended recipients.

7  
8           22.    The steps of claim 19, wherein said notifying comprises creating a  
9 pointer to the first location, and placing the pointer at a plurality of second  
10 locations each of which being dedicated to a different one of the intended  
11 recipients, wherein individual recipients can use the pointer to access the email  
12 message at the first storage location.

13  
14           23.    The steps of claim 19 further comprising prior to said placing:  
15           defining a profile of unwanted email messages based upon at least one of:  
16 the size of an email message, the number of specified recipient addresses, and the  
17 number of invalid specified recipient addresses;  
18           determining whether an email message meets the profile; and  
19           wherein said placing and said notifying takes place only if the email  
20 message meets the profile.

21  
22           24.    (Amended) A programmed email server that contains computer-  
23 readable instructions which, when executed by the email server, perform the  
24 following steps:  
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1 determining whether an email message that is received by the email server  
2 likely constitutes an unwanted email message, the email server comprising part of  
3 a web-based email system in which, for at least some users of the system, a client  
4 user interface email environment is generated through use of HTML or web pages  
5 that are sent to client devices; and

6 if the email message likely constitutes an unwanted email message:

7 storing a copy of the email message at a first storage location rather than  
8 individual storage locations that are dedicated to individual intended recipients of  
9 the email message; and

10 notifying intended recipients of the email message that an email message  
11 addressed to them has been received by the server.

12  
13 25. The steps of claim 24, wherein said determining takes place without  
14 considering the message conveyed by any content of the sender's address field, the  
15 subject field, or the message field.

16  
17 26. The steps of claim 24 further comprising enabling intended  
18 recipients, if they so desire, to read the email message at the first storage location.

19  
20 27. The steps of claim 26, wherein said enabling comprises doing so  
21 without making any copies of the copy of the email message at the first storage  
22 location.

23  
24 28. The steps of claim 26 further comprising receiving instructions from  
25 an intended recipient that a copy of the email message be made specifically for

1 them, and responsive thereto, making a copy of the email message, and storing  
2 said copy at a recipient-specific location.

3  
4 29. The steps of claim 24, wherein said determining takes place by  
5 considering the size of the email message.

6  
7 30. The steps of claim 24, wherein said determining takes place by  
8 considering the number of specified recipient addresses of the email message.

9  
10 31. The steps of claim 24, wherein said determining takes place by  
11 considering the number of invalid specified recipient addresses.

12  
13 32. The steps of claim 24, wherein said determining takes place by  
14 defining a plurality of heuristics that establish a profile of unwanted email  
15 messages, wherein the profile considers factors that are independent of any  
16 message conveyed by an email message's content, and applying the plurality of  
17 heuristics to an email message.

18  
19 33. The steps of claim 32, wherein the heuristics are adjustable.

20  
21 34. (Amended) An email screening method comprising:  
22 developing a profile of unsolicited commercial email based upon the size of  
23 an email message and the number of specified recipient addresses of the email  
24 message;  
25

1 configuring a mail server that is responsible for storing and distributing  
2 email messages to a plurality of clients with a filter processor that is programmed  
3 to evaluate email messages that are received in light of the developed profile, the  
4 mail server comprising part of a web-based email system in which, for at least  
5 some users of the system, a client user interface email environment is generated  
6 through use of HTML or web pages that are sent to client devices;

7 evaluating email messages with the filter processor and determining  
8 whether the email messages fit the developed profile; and

9 if an email message fits the developed profile, initiating a remedial measure  
10 that ensures that the mail server does not make as many copies of the email  
11 message as there are specified recipient addresses.

12  
13 35. The email screening method of claim 34, wherein said remedial  
14 measure comprises storing one copy of the email message at a server storage  
15 location, instead of storing multiple copies of the email message for the specified  
16 recipient addresses.

17  
18 36. The email screening method of claim 34, wherein said remedial  
19 measure comprises storing one copy of the email message at a server storage  
20 location, instead of storing multiple copies of the email message for the specified  
21 recipient addresses, and notifying intended recipients that an email message  
22 intended for them has been stored at the server storage location.

23  
24 37. The email screening method of claim 34, wherein said remedial  
25 measure comprises storing one copy of the email message at a server storage



1 location, instead of storing multiple copies of the email message for the specified  
2 recipient addresses, and notifying intended recipients that an email message  
3 intended for them has been stored at the server storage location by placing a  
4 pointer in a designated email folder for the intended recipients.

5  
6 38. The email screening method of claim 37 further comprising, for each  
7 recipient who so desires, reading the email message from the server storage  
8 location.

9  
10 39. The email screening method of claim 37 further comprising, for each  
11 recipient who so desires, copying the email message from the server storage  
12 location to a recipient-location.

13  
14 40. (Amended) An email delivery method comprising:  
15 establishing a bulk email folder in which bulk email is to be stored;  
16 configuring an email server to receive email messages and deliver them  
17 either to multiple server storage locations that are dedicated to storing email  
18 messages for respective recipients or to a single, shared location that can be shared  
19 by a plurality of the recipients, the email server comprising part of an email  
20 system in which, for at least some users of the system, a client user interface email  
21 environment is generated through use of HTML or web pages that are sent to  
22 client devices;  
23 receiving an email message;  
24 comparing an address for the sender of the email message with a recipient's  
25 list of approved senders; and

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1 delivering the email message to the single, shared location if: (a) the email  
2 message is not directly addressed to a recipient that is serviced by the server, and  
3 (b) the sender's address does not appear in the recipient's list of approved senders.

4  
5 41. The email delivery method of claim 40 further comprising  
6 maintaining the email message at the single, shared location only for a  
7 determinable amount of time.

8  
9 42. (Amended) An email screening method comprising:  
10 developing a profile of unwanted email messages based upon whether an  
11 email message is similar in content to another email message;

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12 configuring a mail server that is responsible for storing email messages for  
13 a plurality of clients with a filter processor that is programmed to evaluate email  
14 messages that are received in light of the developed profile, the mail server  
15 comprising part of an email system in which, for at least some users of the system,  
16 a client user interface email environment is generated through use of HTML or  
17 web pages that are sent to client devices;

18 evaluating email messages with the filter processor and determining  
19 whether the email message fits the developed profile; and

20 if the email message fits the developed profile, placing a copy of the email  
21 message in a first location and, rather than placing multiple copies of the email  
22 message in multiple dedicated client storage locations, notifying the multiple  
23 clients that an email message addressed to them has been received so that the  
24 clients can read the email message if they so desire.

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1 43. (Amended) An email screening method comprising:  
2 defining an index having values that are assigned to various degrees of  
3 desirability that an email message can have, wherein the degrees of desirability  
4 extend from a low degree of desirability to a high degree of desirability;  
5 associating a plurality of parameters having parameter values with the  
6 various degrees of desirability, wherein at least some of the parameters do not  
7 depend on any message that is conveyed by any content of an email message; and  
8 establishing a user interface through which a user can adjust either (a)  
9 individual parameter values that, in turn, establish a degree of desirability, or (b)  
10 index values that themselves establish a degree of desirability that email messages  
11 must have in order to be saved to dedicated user storage locations; and  
12 evaluating, using a computing device comprising part of an email system in  
13 which, for at least some users of the system, a client user interface email  
14 environment is generated through use of HTML or web pages that are sent to  
15 client devices, incoming email messages against the index value that is defined by  
16 the user.

17  
18 44. The email screening method of claim 43, wherein the parameter  
19 values are adjustable.  
20

21 45. The email screening method of claim 43, wherein one of the  
22 parameters is associated with the number of specified recipient addresses.  
23

24 46. The email screening method of claim 43, wherein one of the  
25 parameters is associated with a percentage of invalid specified recipient addresses.

1  
2 47. The email screening method of claim 43, wherein one of the  
3 parameters is associated with the size of an email message.

4  
5 48. (Amended) An email server system comprising:  
6 a user storage database configured to store user information including email  
7 messages that are intended for individual users; and  
8 a server configured to receive email messages that are intended for various  
9 users and store the email messages in dedicated user storage locations within the  
10 user storage database;

11 wherein the server is further configured to screen email messages based  
12 upon a set of heuristics that determine whether an email message likely constitutes  
13 an unwanted email message, the server further being configured to place a single  
14 copy of an email message in a storage location that is not a dedicated user storage  
15 location if it is determined by screening the email message that it likely constitutes  
16 an unwanted email message, said system comprising an Internet-based system that  
17 is configured to send email messages to users in a format in which a user's  
18 browser application processes the email messages and provides a user interface for  
19 a user to view the email messages.

20  
21 49. The email server system of claim 48, wherein the set of heuristics  
22 considers the size of an email message.  
23  
24  
25

1           50.    The email server system of claim 48, wherein the set of heuristics  
2 considers the number of specified user addresses that are specified by an email  
3 message.

4  
5           51.    The email server system of claim 48, wherein the set of heuristics  
6 considers the number of invalid specified user addresses that are specified by an  
7 email message.

8  
9           52.    The email server system of claim 48, wherein the server is further  
10 configured to place a pointer to the storage location in which the single copy of the  
11 email message is placed, in each dedicated user storage location that corresponds  
12 to a valid specified user address contained in the email message.